

## "Sell Us Food or Risk Your Ships," Germany's Stand

Ambassador Von Bernstorff, in Call at State Department, Emphasizes His Country's Belief in the Vital Importance of the Wilhelmina Case—Declares that if England Will Not Allow Supplies to Reach Teuton Civil Population, Germany Will Use Every Means at Her Command to Cut Off All Commerce with British Isles, and United States Ships Must Take Chances if They Attempt to Run Blockade.

### AMERICA IS TRAPPED BETWEEN MILLSTONES; OFFICIALS HERE REVIEW WILHELMINA CASE

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.  
London, Feb. 13.—The belief is growing in London that the cargo of foodstuffs on the American steamship Wilhelmina, now in Falmouth harbor, will be sold to the American commission for relief in Belgium, instead of being disposed of by a prize court.

It is said the government will offer no objections to the proposed plan.

The difficulties and dangers of the position of the United States between the upper and nether millstones of the maritime warfare between England and Germany were emphasized yesterday when Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, called at the State Department to impress upon Secretary Bryan the vital importance of the issues involved in the Wilhelmina case.

His presentation of Germany's views on these issues was practically equivalent to notice that if Great Britain would not permit food to reach the civil population of Germany from the outside, Germany would use all means at her command to cut off the British supplies of food. In either event, the loss to United States trade will be second only to the injury sustained by the belligerents, and it was obvious that it is Germany's expectation that this government will take steps for the preservation of its trade with England which will have the effect of making a similar trade with Germany possible.

### ASKS INQUIRY OF SHIP PLOT RUMOR

Burton Sees Basis for Tale that U. S. Officers Have Interest in Interned Vessels.

### URGES PROBE IN SENATE

Ohioan Says He Has Information Tending to Show Loans Already Have Been Made.

Senator Burton expressed a determination in the Senate yesterday to probe rumors alleging that certain government officers who have affiliations with New York finance interests hold options on the interned German ships and that this is the main reason for the persistent effort to force through the ship-purchase bill.

### Submits Two Resolutions.

Senator Burton proposed two resolutions looking to an investigation. One of these, which he asked to be referred to the Senate Committee on Audit and Control of Continental Expenses, provides for an investigating committee of five Senators to be named by the Vice President, and given full powers to compel the production of papers and the appearance and testimony of witnesses and directed to ascertain whether any individual, firm, or corporation in the United States holds options on the ships and whether any options are held by government officers.

Senator Burton also introduced a more comprehensive resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury to answer certain interrogatories concerning the rumors that are afloat.

This resolution was not given immediate consideration because Senator Fletcher asked that it lie over for a day. It will come up later and if a vote is had it is likely to pass.

While not in any way admitting the right of Germany to exert any pressure upon this government in the matter, officials pointed out to Ambassador Bernstorff that the Wilhelmina case is the case, which is being reviewed. If found such as to warrant the support of the government, the brief will be transmitted to the British government by the State Department, with the view of convincing the British that they have not a sufficient case to warrant prize court proceedings. It is understood that the State Department is rather inclined to think the American case a good one, especially in view of the guarantees given by the German government with regard to the disposition of such food cargoes.

### Wants Matter Probed.

In the debate later in the day Senator Burton said he had information which led him to believe that there was some basis for the tale that loans had already been made to the owners of the interned ships and that government officers, as interested, either as holders of options or in some other way, in the sale of the ships to the United States government. The Senator said he was determined to have the matter probed if possible.

### AMBUSH AND SLAY MILLIONAIRE

Wm. Dick, Colorado Mine Owner, Shot Down in Road.

Denver, Feb. 13.—Ambushed on the public highway, near Walsenburg, William Dick, independent mine owner and one of the wealthiest coal operators in the State, was shot to death in his automobile this afternoon. His slayers, evidently not after money, left \$6,500 untouched in his car, failed to take his watch and turned two pockets of effect trousseau inside out, apparently for effect. Sheriff Farr, of Huerfano County, with twenty-five armed deputies in autos is in pursuit of the slayers.

227.75 New Orleans, 225.55 Mobile and return Feb. 9-15 via Norfolk & Western Ex. Leave 1:15 P. M. Ave.—Adv.

## SPAIN CALLS ON NATIONS TO TAKE HAND IN MEXICO

Joint Action to End "State of Anarchy" Demanded by Madrid.

### BRYAN WAITS FOR NOTE

U. S., Asked to Protect Spanish Colonists, Faces Embarrassing Predicament.

### "FIRST CHIEF" ACCUSES ENVOY

Through Foreign Minister Explains Why Spanish Diplomat Was Expelled from Country.

### GUADALAJARA FALLS INTO HANDS OF VILLA

El Paso, Feb. 13.—Gen. Francisco Villa telephoned here tonight from Guadalajara that his forces under Gen. Julian Medina had captured that city, the second largest in Mexico, after surprising the Carranza garrison under Gen. Miguel Diezguerra. His message followed:

"We entered Guadalajara today and immediately after pursued the enemy. We shall continue the pursuit until we either make them surrender or exterminate them. The main Carranza force has left in the direction of Mazatlan, but orders have been issued by Gen. Medina to stop their progress at Sayula and Tepic. Already they have lost their trains at Sayula."

### Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Feb. 13.—The Exchange Telegraph Company received a dispatch from Madrid stating that the Spanish government has made an application to the powers for joint action to end what the Spanish government declares to be a "state of anarchy" now existing in Mexico.

Great concern is felt in Madrid over the welfare of the numerous Spanish colonies in Mexico who have not been heard from since the expulsion of the Spanish ambassador by the Carranza officials.

It is feared here that other foreign ambassadors will meet the same fate as did the Spanish ambassador, and it is very likely that Spain will ask the United States to act in behalf of its colonies in Mexico.

### Explains Envoy's Expulsion.

Vera Cruz, Feb. 13.—Minister of Foreign Relations Urueta today issued a formal statement relative to the expulsion by "First Chief" Carranza of the self-styled minister from Spain to Mexico, who pretended to be recognized as such, though the constitutional government never had been recognized by Spain.

The statement refers to Senor Del Caso as having been a real estate operator and married to a wife Mexican, Del Caso, says Urueta, was in close touch with the Villa movement and was the confidential financial agent and political adviser of Villa and as such was known in Washington.

Minister Urueta accuses Del Caso of having conspired with Urbina Fierro in a number of assassinations and of acquiring false credentials as a confidential agent of Spain to the Gutierrez government.

### Await Spanish Note.

No official report of the action of the Spanish government yesterday with regard to conditions in Mexico was received in Washington, neither the Spanish Ambassador nor the State Department having any advice. It was generally expected that it would be another day before anything would be received through official channels regarding any action that the Spanish government may have taken.

It was expected that Spain would take serious offense at the expulsion of her minister from Mexico City, and that was why the United States government endeavored to relieve the situation before the order for the minister's deportation was issued. It was feared that this act by Carranza might prove to be the last straw and bring the Spanish government to a determination in favor of more drastic action regarding Mexico than has heretofore been suggested by any government.

### U. S. Faces Embarrassment.

It would occasion no surprise here if Spain called upon the United States to bring about a restoration of law and order and civilization in Mexico. Such a request would, doubtless, prove most embarrassing to the administration, which is now endeavoring to let the Mexican situation solve itself as far as possible. It is felt that the present is a particularly inopportune time for the Mexican issue to be presented to this government in any more pressing form.

Mexico City is likely to prove untenable for the Carranza forces in the near future, according to advices received here yesterday. It is reported that in addition to the scarcity of food, which has existed for some time, Zapata has further interfered with the water supply. Dispatches state that he has destroyed one of the principal waterworks, but it is not understood that the city has been entirely deprived of its water supply.

## German Press Defies U. S.; Ships Must Run Own Risks

Open defiance is voiced in the semi-official German newspapers in comment on the American note of warning to Germany.

Some of these comments follow:

"The vessels of neutrals enter upon this war zone at their own risk."

"It is out of the question that the identity of every ship with a neutral flag be ascertained."

"A submarine mine cannot learn this identity, and such a course is equally impossible for a submarine boat."

"The American government and the shippers themselves must bear the responsibility."

"We gather the impression \* \* \* that if the American people believe they can handle the German government as they desire by pressure and threats they will fool themselves."

"Persons acquainted with the psychology of England know that the German blockade will be effective if it costs the lives of many English women and men."

"The condition of affairs and the consequences it may bring after February 18 cannot be changed or influenced by any representations or demands from Washington."

## Germany Defiant, Press Gives Open Voice to Threats

Kaiser and Chancellor to Take Up United States Note at Emperor's Headquarters on the Eastern Front—News-papers Sneer at American Demands and Declare that Neutral Ships Must Open War Zone at Their Own Risk. "If Americans Believe They Can Handle the German Government as They Desire by Pressure and Threats They Will Fool Themselves," Writes Count von Reventlow, Naval Expert, High in Kaiser's Councils.

### NEUTRAL SHIPS WILL FACE PERIL, BERLIN ADMIRALTY DECLARES, IN SECOND WARNING

### Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

The Hague, Feb. 13.—A second and more detailed warning to neutral ships against entering the war area around the British Isles is sounded today in an announcement by the German Legation. The new warning repeats the original statement of the German admiralty on the question and adds the following:

"Since Germany, following the example of Great Britain, declared a war zone on and after February 18, English and Irish waters, the British have declared all the ports of England to be war ports and have justified the use of neutral flags on merchant vessels."

"Moreover, according to a reliable source, a great number of British merchantmen have been armed in order to destroy German submarines by shells or by ramming them. Therefore these ships lose their character as merchant ships and become war vessels."

All neutrals warned. "Germany, therefore, again is obliged urgently to warn all neutral ships against entering English coast waters after February 18, as from that date the German admiralty will prosecute the war with all means at its disposal against British war ports and British armed merchant ships."

"Neutral vessels which are then still within the war zone will run the same risk as if they pursued a course through sea battles between England and Germany, which the date and place could not have been made known and will bring risks upon themselves for which Germany cannot take the responsibility."

"The route around the north of Scotland, owing to the depth of the waters, cannot be endangered by mines. There, as well as in the waters of the North Sea, with the exception of British waters and German Bay, neutral shipping will not be endangered by the measures the German admiralty is adopting."

### Kaiser to Get Note.

Berlin, Feb. 13.—The German authorities are much embarrassed over the American note protesting against the blockade of the French and English coasts by Germany.

The terms of the German reply will be discussed at a meeting between the chancellor and Emperor William. The meeting will take place on the eastern front, where the Kaiser now is.

The German press generally upholds the government and states that if America does not want harm to come to its ships they should be warned not to enter the danger zone.

It is reported that the German reply will be couched in apologetic terms, giving America a distinct pledge for the safety of American ships. The pledge, however, will be conditional that America prohibit the use of the Stars and Stripes by belligerents.

### Press Is Defiant.

A feeling of anger against the United States is cropping up in Germany, and the government seems to be doing little to check it.

Open defiance characterizes the comments of the German newspapers on the American note.

Count von Reventlow, a naval expert high in the councils of the empire, writing in the Tages Zeitung, declares:

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.

## NATION'S HEADS FRY AND FRIZZLE ON 1915 GRIDIRON

Famous Club Toasts Notables at Anniversary Banquet.

### CANDIDATES ON TRIAL

Hopes of Presidential Aspirants of All Parties Are Wrung from Them.

### DEPEW RECALLS OLD TIMES

Representative of Early Days of Organization Answers Song with Speech.

Three N's in a row.

Large and fragrant N's they were and they hung in all their glory beneath the brilliant electric gridiron in the New Willard hotel last night. They were the floral signboards which marked the thirtieth anniversary dinner of the Gridiron Club.

For thirty years this famous organization has been dispensing mirth and merriment, jollity and jest, wit and wisdom. Like wine, it grows better as it grows older. Each year has seen it develop along unique lines until now it is not only a distinct institution of the National Capital but its fame is world-wide. Last night's triple-N dinner was one of the best ever. It was full of clever stuff, but without the slightest suggestion of malice in any line. Each shaft of wit fell harmlessly upon a cushion of laughter.

President Edgar C. Snyder, of the Omaha Bee, led the procession into the banquet hall, escorted by Vice President Marshall. Secretary Bryan and several other members of the Cabinet, a dozen or more Senators, over a score of Representatives, army and navy officers and men distinguished in finance, railroad, literature and science made up the throng of more than 200 which gathered around the beautifully decorated tables. Perhaps especial mention ought to be made of Admiral Clark, of Oregon fame, and Chauncey M. Depew. The latter's presence recalled the early days of the club. There was a reminiscent note in the song which was sung to him.

"You're the tie that binds us to the days gone by," warbled the chorus, and the speech which the sentiment evoked was in Mr. Depew's happiest vein—which is saying a good deal. But the face of the Gridiron Club is always turned toward the future and so there was no other reference to the fact that nearly a third of a century has elapsed since some eight or ten newspaper correspondents took unto themselves a name which has become historic.

### A Beautiful Banquet Hall.

The banquet hall undoubtedly presented the most beautiful effect ever seen at a dinner in this city. The elaborate floral scheme, prepared by Small for the Beau-Arts entertainment had been allowed to remain and was made still more magnificent by additions distinctive of the Gridiron event. The lofty ceiling was entirely obliterated by a canopy of smilax vines and drooping moss, and in the place of the chandeliers, imbedded in the mass of green, were myriads of yellow Japanese lanterns lighted by electricity. At each recessed window were unique lampshades in black and white, the club's colors, while the tables were wonderfully attractive by the manner in which masses of spring blossoms had been arranged. The great electric gridiron rested against a panel of American Beauty roses and brilliantly illuminated the triple-N design. The whole effect was a masterpiece of beauty.

The dinner was a treat to every sense. Not only did the words of floral decoration delight the eye, but the delicious menu satisfied the inner man and the music pleased the ear. There was an appeal to intelligence and intellectuality.

### Ship Fight Transferred.

By direction of President Wilson, the fight for the administration ship bill was transferred yesterday to the House and arrangements perfected to rush the measure through that body early this week. The compromise bill, dictated by the administration, was introduced in the House by Representative Padgett, of Tennessee, chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs. At the same time a call was issued for a caucus of the House Democrats to be held tomorrow night. When at this caucus the bill will be endorsed and instructions given for action on a gag rule under which the bill will be passed after six hours' debate. The House Democrats are not enthusiastic over the program, but they have received their orders from the White House and will proceed accordingly.

### URGES SUNDAY CURE FOR SPINELESS SOLONS

### Representative Dies, of Texas, Lashes Conferees and Tells Them How to Be Good Legislators.

In a spirited speech in the House yesterday, Representative Dies, of Texas, lectured to his colleagues on "Spinelessness" and asserted that "if we had a little more spine this would be the greatest legislative body on earth."

Dies said there was a growing disposition of members to vote for popular measures and against their convictions and exclaimed:

"I wish 'Billy' Sunday were a member of Congress, so he could come here and preach to you before it is too late."

### Editor Beaten and Robbed.

Cumberland, Md., Feb. 13.—Paul Frank, editor of the Mountain City News, was beaten unconscious by a man at his office in Frostburg today and then robbed of \$50. The assailant escaped.

### More Army Cash for Italy.

Rome, Feb. 13.—For further military expenses up to July, 1915, the Italian government has appropriated \$3,000,000.

## Allies Meet Heavy Defeat at Souain As Blizzard Rages

Outnumbered, French and British Forces Are Driven from Strategic Positions with Heavy Losses—Teutons Sweep Forward in Driving Snowstorm and Occupy Important Works—More Than 1,200 Yards of Trenches Captured from Joffre's Forces North of Massiges, Berlin Reports. Heavy Artillery Duels Are Waged in Belgium, According to Paris Midnight Communique—Attacks Against Teuton Positions in Vosges Repulsed.

### TWO ENGLISH AVIATORS DASHED TO DEATH BY TAUBES IN ATTEMPTED RAID ON BRUSSELS

### Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Feb. 13.—Signal defeat of the French in the region of Souain was admitted by Paris tonight. Following a fierce battle, fought in a raging blizzard, French forces have been driven from their advantageous position in that vicinity.

The official statement received from Berlin explains the defeat by declaring the French troops were outnumbered, and that the blizzard made it impossible for the artillery to render them effective support.

An official statement from Berlin declares more than 200 of the allies were killed, and that four officers and 478 men were taken prisoners. The German losses, it is claimed, were but ninety men.

The Germans also report taking more than 1,200 yards of trenches held by the French north of Massiges, to the northwest of St. Menesbould. A French attack on the Sudelkopf, in the Vosges is reported to have been repulsed easily.

Two British airmen gave their lives in Thursday's attempt to reach Brussels, it was learned today. The Britons were met by German Taubes

and a desperate battle in mid-air followed. A well directed shot from one of the Taubes struck one of the English machines and sent it crashing to the ground. Its occupants were killed by the fall.

### Mined Chamber Blown Up.

Several artillery actions in Belgium are reported in the official statement from Paris, which also reports the blowing up, and subsequent occupancy by French troops, of a mined chamber at La Boiselle. In front of Dompreux, southwest of Peronne, the explosion of a French mine is reported to have killed a number of Bavarians at work digging German trenches.

The Germans, the report says, have bombarded the towns of Bailey and Tracy in Wal, while shots from French heavy artillery are reported to have wrecked the railway station at Noyon.

### THREE MORE BRITISH STEAMERS REPORTED SUBMARINE VICTIMS

Scarborough, England, Feb. 13.—The new cargo steamer Torquay, of Dartmouth, was towed into Scarborough harbor last night in a sinking condition, after either striking a mine or having been torpedoed eight miles east of this port.

The damage was amidships, one boiler having been penetrated. One

Haute (via Paris), Feb. 13.—It is now considered certain that the British steamers Oriole and London Trader have been torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. The last time the vessels are known to have been seen was at 2 p. m., January 30, near Dun-keness.

The Oriole had left London for Havre on January 28. Her crew numbered twenty-one men. The London Trader is a vessel of 634 tons, built in 1913 and owned by the London Welsh Steamship Company of London.

### DECLARES HE PERJURED SELF AT BECKER TRIAL

Negro Witness Now Alleged to Have Confessed He Was Drilled by Attorney.

Philadelphia, Feb. 13.—James Marshall, a negro, whose evidence materially assisted in the conviction of Police Lieut. Charles Becker, of New York, for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, a gambler, declared today that the evidence that he gave was false.

Becker now is in the death house in Sing Sing.

Marshall is alleged to have told a reporter today that an attorney had instructed him as to the evidence he was to give. Acting under those instructions Marshall, it is said, said he testified that he saw Becker talking to "Bald Jack" Rose, "Bridge" Webber, and Sam Scheppe, at the "Harlem conference."

"I testified that I knew about the conference but I didn't," Marshall is said to have told the reporter today. "I knew nothing about the conspiracy."

The State of New York, in its case against Becker, tried to make one of its strongest points against Becker on the charge that he was at the "Harlem conference."

New York, Feb. 13.—A fight for a third trial for former Police Lieut. Charles Becker, now in the death house at Sing Sing for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, will be waged before the Supreme Court, it was announced tonight.

Becker's counsel plan to make their appeal immediately based on the affidavit of James Marshall, a negro in Philadelphia, that his testimony at the second trial to the effect that he saw Becker at the famous "Harlem conference" was perjured.